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Bethlehem CT 06751



BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

January 22, 2010

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Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106

Dear Mr. Stacey:

I would like to comment on the proposed standards for river flow in Connecticut. I believe it would be a serious mistake to write off any natural streams, as described by the proposed Class 4 category. The Naugatuck and upper Housatonic Rivers are examples of streams that would have fitted this category only a few years ago.

Further, no regulations granting the rights of water consumers at the possible expense of the environment should be established without a scientific analysis of its effect on natural systems. In addition, water conservation measures should be required as a prerequisite to the granting of permits.

Today, New England enjoys, for the most part, an abundant supply of both surface and underground water. However, the climate is changing, and our situation could alter drastically. Because of the uncertainties, we need to be conservative in the regulation of this most precious resource.

Very Sincerely,


John D. Nelson Jr.